

NEWS RELEASE

*OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS*

*RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY*

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

June 22, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on June 17, 2005, **ROGER D. BIRCHLER**, age 49 of Sparta, Illinois, pled guilty to an Indictment charging: **BANK FRAUD**, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1344. The offense carries a total maximum statutory penalty of up to thirty (30) years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$1,000,000, and up to five (5) years' supervised release. Sentencing is scheduled for October 7, 2005.

As part of the plea, **ROGER D. BIRCHLER** admitted that he executed a scheme to defraud the First National Bank of Sparta, through his operation of a car dealership, Bo's Broadway Motors, in Sparta, Illinois. **ROGER D. BIRCHLER** submitted false vehicle identification numbers for advances of funds on a line of credit floor-plan financing arrangement, causing a loss to the First National Bank of Sparta of approximately \$158,000.

The successful prosecution follows an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The prosecution of the case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Norman R. Smith.